

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Fukuchi (US 5,396,356).

The drawings are objected to for allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended claim 1 to better define the invention. Accordingly, claims 1-8 are pending for consideration.

Applicants submit herewith a Request for Approval of Drawing Changes to include item “D” in figure 4. As indicated in red ink, part C of figure 4 has been changed to “D.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request approval of the proposed drawing change.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to for allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Applicants respectfully disagree with the allegation and that “the electrode pattern is between said seal pattern and said protective film,” as recited by claim 15 is not shown. Without conceding that the drawings do not show such features, Applicants point out that this feature is recited by claim 15, which has been non-elected in the Response to Requirement for Election of Species filed on April 2, 2002.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Fukuchi (US 5,396,356). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as being based upon a reference that neither teaches nor suggests the novel combination of features recited in independent claim 1, as amended, and hence dependent claims 2-7.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recite in part “a seal pattern formed peripherally to and outside of said active area on the electrode pattern, and contacting said first substrate and said second substrate.” The Office Action alleges that the sealing material 19 of Fukuchi is a “seal pattern” as claimed, and that transparent electrode patterns 13D, 14D, and 15D of Fukuchi are a “electrode pattern” as claimed. Applicants respectfully disagree. In contrast to Applicants’ claimed invention, the sealing material 19 of Fukuchi as shown, for example, in FIGs. 1a and 1b, contacts only one of the first and second substrates and an electrode pattern 15D and 14D. However, the sealing material 19 of Fukuchi does not contact the other substrate and, therefore, does not contact first and second substrates, as recited by claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Fukuchi fails to teach or suggest every limitation recited by independent claim 1, as amended, and hence dependent claims 2-8.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn because Fukuchi neither teaches nor suggests the novel combination of features recited in amended independent claim 1 and hence dependent claims 2-8.

CONCLUSION

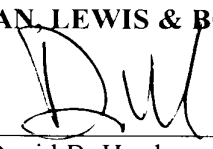
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**"

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1.(Amended) A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

a first substrate having a common electrode;

a second substrate having an active area;

an electrode pattern formed on the second substrate;

a seal pattern formed peripherally to said active area **on the electrode pattern,**

and ~~[between]~~ **contacting** said first substrate and said second substrate;

a liquid crystal layer between said first substrate and said second substrate, and

on the active area~~;~~ ~~and~~

~~an electrode pattern adjacent to said seal pattern and outside said active area].~~